

Message Text

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14

ACTION IO-13

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FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6054

UNCLAS KATHMANDU 3682

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UN, FAO, AORG, NP

SUBJECT: ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES IN FAO

REF: STATE 191618

1. WE ARE CONVINCED THAT REMOVAL OF FAO COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE FROM UNDER THE UMBRELLA AUTHORITY OF THE UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY WEAKEN THE OVERALL PERFORMANCE OF THE U.N. DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IN NEPAL. ON THE BUREAUCRATIC SIDE, IT WOULD UNNECESSARILY CONTRIBUTE TO THE PROLIFERATION OF DONOR AGENCY OFFICES HERE, AND WE ARE CYNICAL ENOUGH TO EXPECT THAT IT WOULD LEAD TO A PARKINSONIAN EXPANSION OF ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF. IN OPERATIONAL TERMS, WHATEVER LIP-SERVICE MAY BE PAID TO THE IMPORTANCE OF COORDINATION, WE FAIL TO SEE THE VIRTUE IN REPLACING THE BUILT-IN COORDINATION RESULTING FROM HAVING THE FAO REP REPORT TO THE UNDP RESREP WITH A SPECULATIVE ARRANGEMENT RELYING ON GOOD-WILL AND THE VAGARIES OF PERSONALITIES. IN AN OVERWHELMINGLY AGRICULTURAL COUNTRY SUCH AS NEPAL VIRTUALLY EVERY DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROJECT IMPACTS ON THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR ONE WAY OR ANOTHER. TO DIVIDE FAO AND UNDP AUTHORITY IN SUCH A SITUATION SIMPLY DOES NOT MAKE SENSE. THESE POINTS HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED WITH THE ACTING UNDP RESREP HERE (WHO IS ALSO CURRENTLY ACTING FAO COUNTRY REP), AND HE WAS

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CONVINCED THAT PROGRAMMING, MANAGEMENT AND RELATIONS

WITH GON WOULD ALL SUFFER BY SUCH A CHANGE.

2. ONE ADVERSE EFFECT ALREADY FELT HERE HAS BEEN THE LOSS OF THE PREVIOUS FAO COUNTRY REP., AN EXTREMELY COMPETENT AND EFFECTIVE INDIVIDUAL. WITH THE UNDP/FAO SALARY SHARING ARRANGEMENT IN ABEYANCE WHEN HIS CONTRACT CAME DUE FOR RENEWAL EARLY THIS SUMMER, NO ONE WAS IN A POSITION TO OFFER HIM OTHER THAN A PATCHWORK, SHORT-TERM CONTRACT EXTENSION TO CARRY HIM ALONG UNTIL NEW PROCEDURES WERE WORKED OUT. RATHER THAN PUT UP WITH SUCH AN UNCERTAIN AND AMBIGUOUS FUTURE, HE SIMPLY WENT HOME AND BACK TO WORK FOR HIS OWN GOVERNMENT. MAYTAG

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